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COMICS



#21

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THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

MACHIE
LARSEN
BEATTY



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SHOWDOWN
WITH THE
SPIDER-SLAYERS!

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AT LEAST THAT'S THE
NAME OF THE GUY
BENEATH THE SPIDER-MAN
MASK!

ALL I WANTED TO
DO WAS EARN SOME
EXTRA CASH BY TAKING
SOME PICTURES FOR
J. JONAH JAMESON
AND THE DAILY BUGLE.

IT'S ONE OF THE MANY THINGS I DO TO TRY AND MAKE ENDS MEET.

AS USUAL A BAD GUY SHOWED UP.

HIS NAME IS
ALISTAIR
SMYTHE...
HE AND I GO
WAY BACK...

HE CONTROLS THE
LITTLE DEVILS CALLED
THE SPIDER-SLAVERS.

HE SET
THE WHOLE
THING UP.

HE'S STILL BLAMING
ME FOR HIS FATHER'S
DEATH MONTHS BACK...
HIS POP WAS THE
ORIGINATOR OF THE
SPIDER-SLAYERS.

THE MECHANICAL THING
STUCK ONTO THE FRONT
OF MY FACE TRYING TO
SUCK MY BRAINS OUT
THROUGH MY EYES WOULD
BE ONE OF THEM.

THERE'S *GOT* TO BE
A BETTER WAY TO EARN
SOME EXTRA CASH!

MAYBE A NICE
PAPER ROUTE?

HOWARD MACKIE
ERIK LARSEN
JOHN BEATTY
RODNEY RAMOS
story and art

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

GREGORY WRIGHT
colors

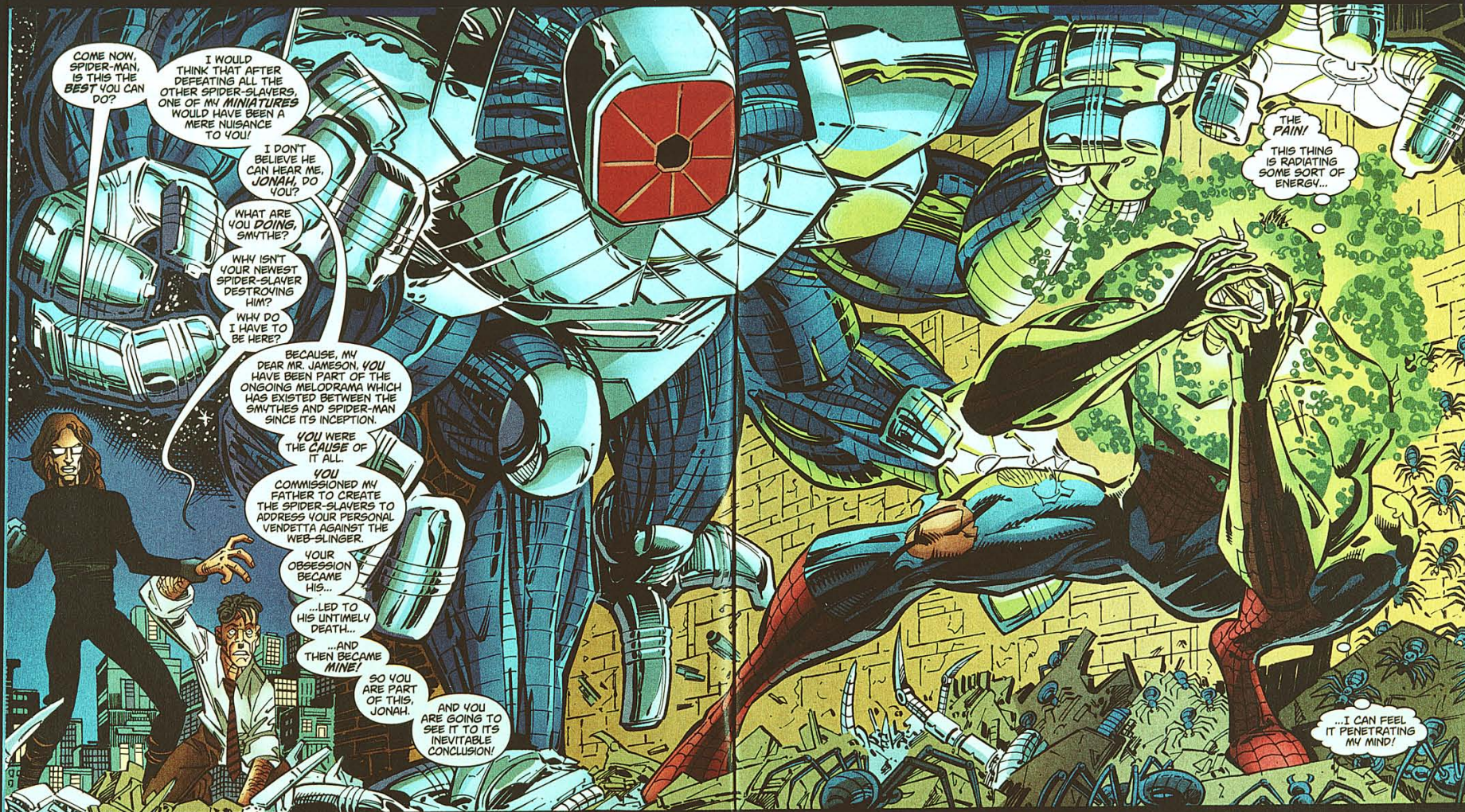
RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

[illegible]

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COME NOW, SPIDER-MAN, IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?

I WOULD THINK THAT AFTER DEFEATING ALL THE OTHER SPIDER-SLAYERS, ONE OF MY MINATURES WOULD HAVE BEEN A MERE NUISANCE TO YOU!

I DON'T BELIEVE HE CAN HEAR ME, JONAH, DO YOU?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SMYTHE?

WHY ISN'T YOUR NEWEST SPIDER-SLAYER DESTROYING HIM?

WHY DO I HAVE TO BE HERE?

BECAUSE, MY DEAR MR. JAMESON, YOU HAVE BEEN PART OF THE ONGOING MELODRAMA WHICH HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THE SMYTHES AND SPIDER-MAN SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

YOU WERE THE CAUSE OF IT ALL.

YOU COMMISSIONED MY FATHER TO CREATE THE SPIDER-SLAYERS TO ADDRESS YOUR PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE WEB-SLINGER.

YOUR OBSESSION BECAME HIS...

...LED TO HIS UNTIMELY DEATH...

...AND THEN BECAME MINE!

SO YOU ARE PART OF THIS, JONAH.

AND YOU ARE GOING TO SEE IT TO ITS INEVITABLE CONCLUSION!

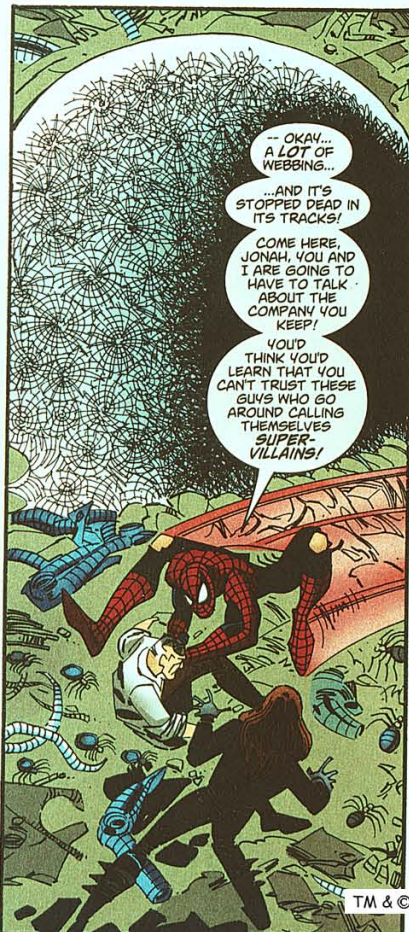
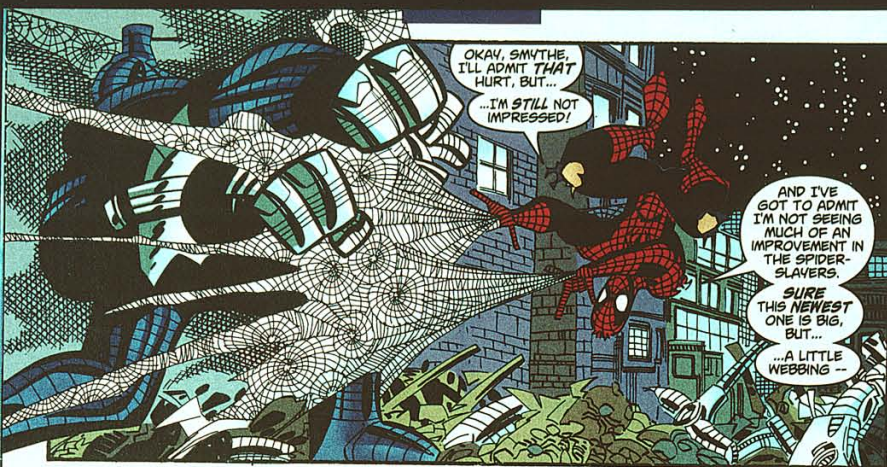
THE PAIN!
THIS THING IS RADIATING SOME SORT OF ENERGY...

...I CAN FEEL IT PENETRATING MY MIND!



BUT... TO... WHAT...
...END?

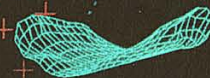
FREE!



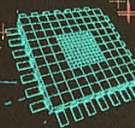
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WHICH CHIP CAN TELL YOU HOW FAST YOU RUN?

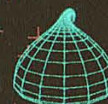
A. Potato Chip



B. Micro Chip



C. Chocolate Chip



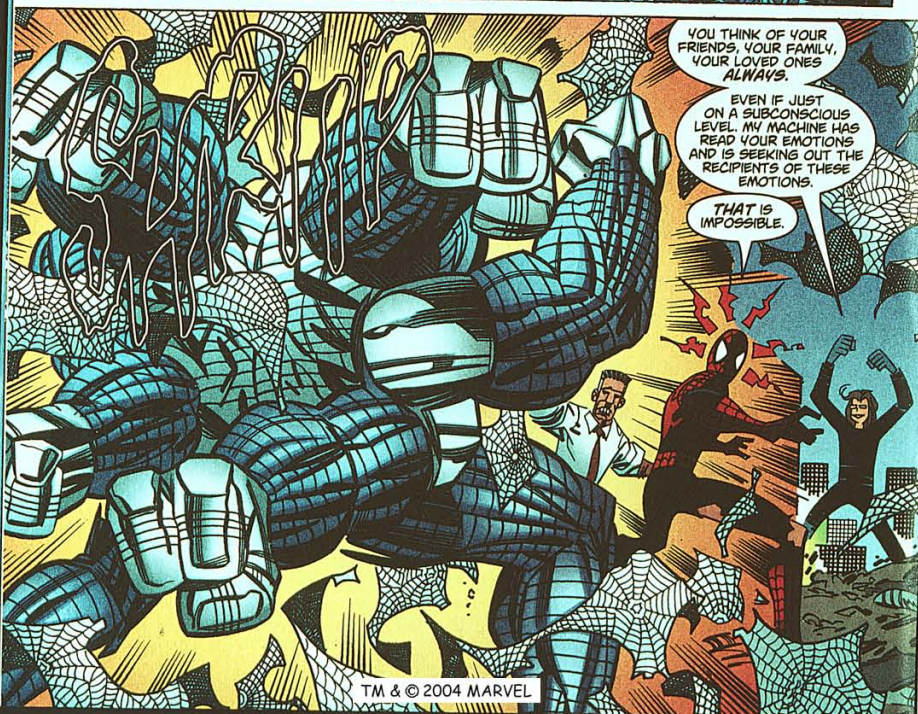
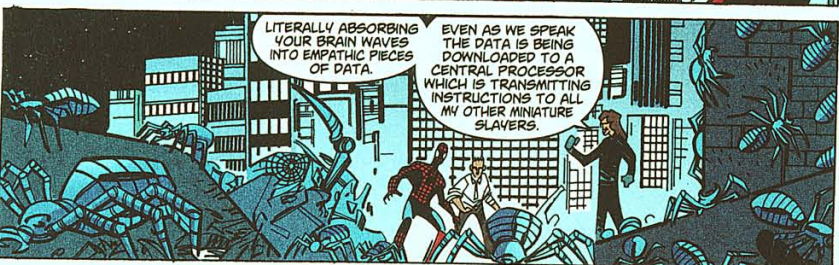
If you guessed A or C, you must be out to lunch! Only the micro chip in Traxtar measures how fast you run and how high you jump. The other chips just taste good on a peanut butter sandwich.



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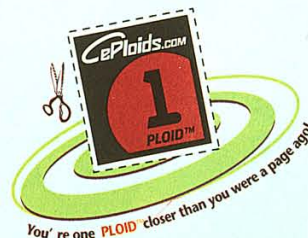
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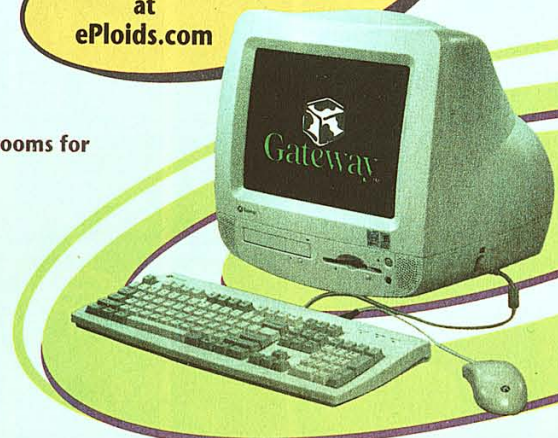


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PERHAPS.

BUT HOW SURE ARE YOU?

I WANT YOU TO SUFFER THE LOSS OF YOUR LOVED ONES, SPIDER-MAN.

THE WAY I SUFFERED WHEN YOU TOOK MY FATHER AWAY FROM ME.

BUT DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH... YOU'LL PROBABLY BE DEAD FIRST!

SO YOU HAVE A CHOICE...

...STAY, BATTLE THE LAST SPIDER-SLAVER, PROTECT JONAH, YOUR MOST FERVENT DETRACTOR, OR...



...FOLLOW MY MINIATURE SLAVERS AND PROTECT YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.



IT'S YOUR CHOICE, SPIDER-MAN.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT BY DAY'S END...

...I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE.

COME ON, JONAH...



...TIME FOR US TO TAKE OFF!



HANG ON TIGHT!

WE'RE IN FOR A BUMPY RIDE!

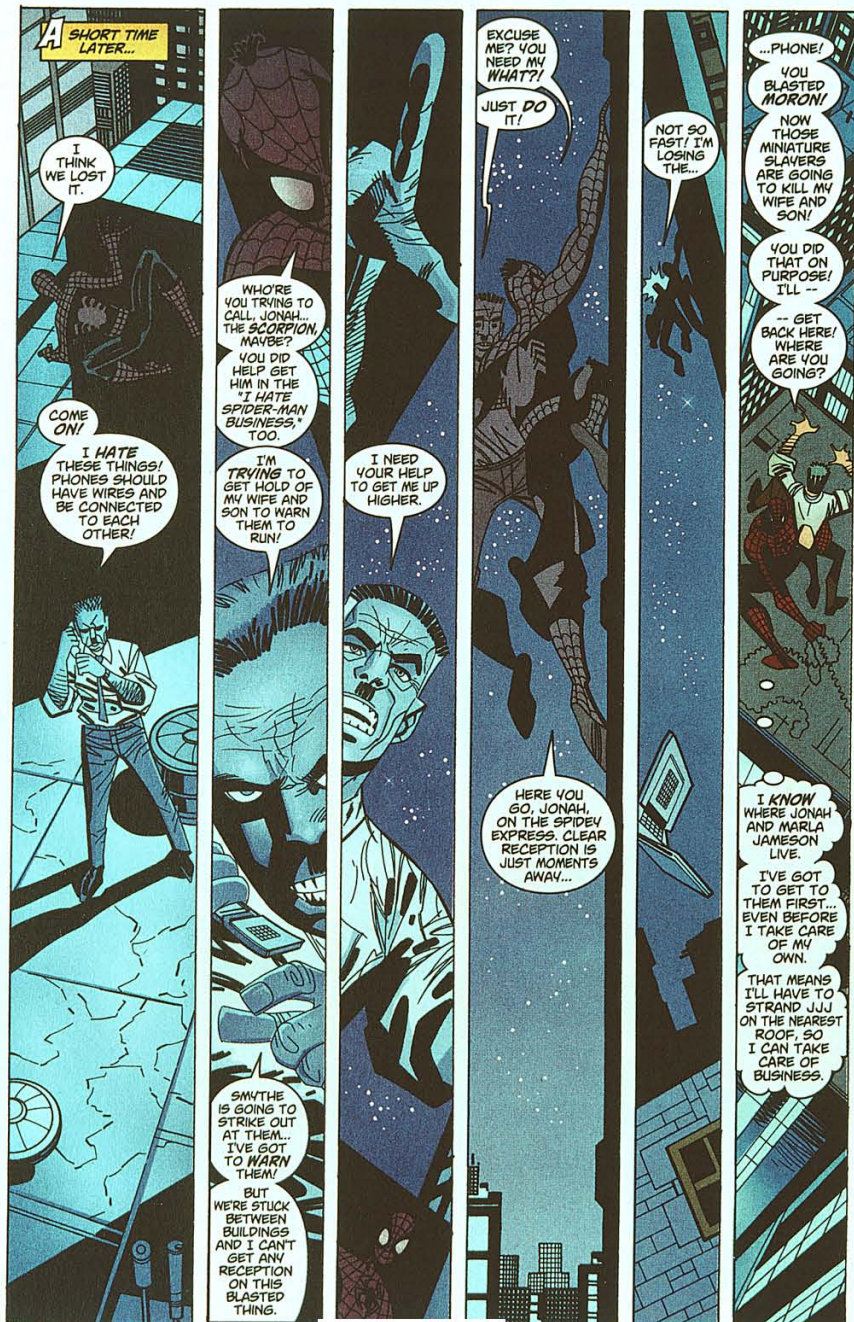
WHAT? LET GO OF ME!

LET GO OF ME NOW!



DON'T TEMPT ME, JONAH!

I'VE HAD A ROUGH DAY.



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GET READY TO CRUMBLE.



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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR STEWART
WARD OF NEW YORK
STATE.



SUSAN, I
NEED TO KNOW
SOMETHING.
NOW THAT
I HAVE THROWN
MY SUPPORT BEHIND
SENATOR KELLY'S
RUN FOR THE
PRESIDENCY...



EXCUSE ME,
STEWART...

...BUT IS
THAT WHAT
THIS IS ALL
ABOUT?



YOU THINK I'M
JUST SOME CAPITOL
HILL BIMBO TO BE
USED BY YOU TO
GET TO SENATOR
KELLY?



SUSAN STRONG IS
ONE OF ROBERT
KELLY'S TOP AIDES
AND WILL NOT BE
USED BY YOU OR
ANY OTHER
MAN!

YOU'D BE
SURPRISED,
MY DEAR.



YOU
TRULY
WOULD.



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WHAT IT TAKES
TO SURVIVE?



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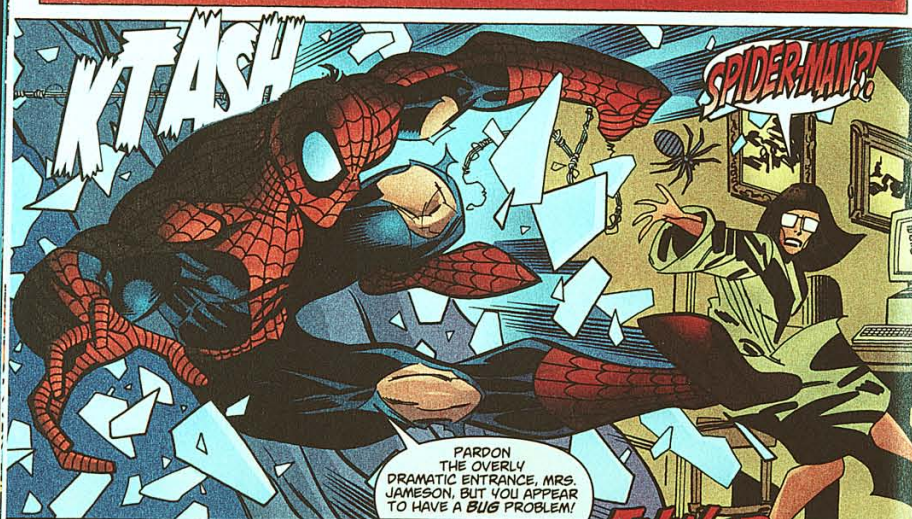
Screen shots taken from PlayStation® game console gameplay.
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AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOME OF JONAH AND MARLA JAMESON...

...THE SPIDER-SLAVER RECEIVES A RADIO SIGNAL AND...

...CREEPS EERILY CLOSER TO MARLA JAMESON.

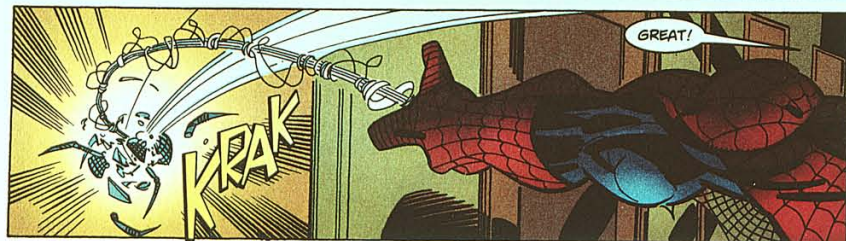


DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE YOUR STEPSON, JOHN, IS? I THINK HE'S GOING TO HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM.

HIS PLANE LANDS AT KENNEDY IN TWO HOURS. THE INFO IS ON THE TABLE NEAR THE WINDOW.

THWAPP

GREAT!



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THAT'S SMYTHE'S HANDWORK... A SMALL VERSION OF ONE OF HIS SLAVERS.

WHAT HAS JONAH DONE?

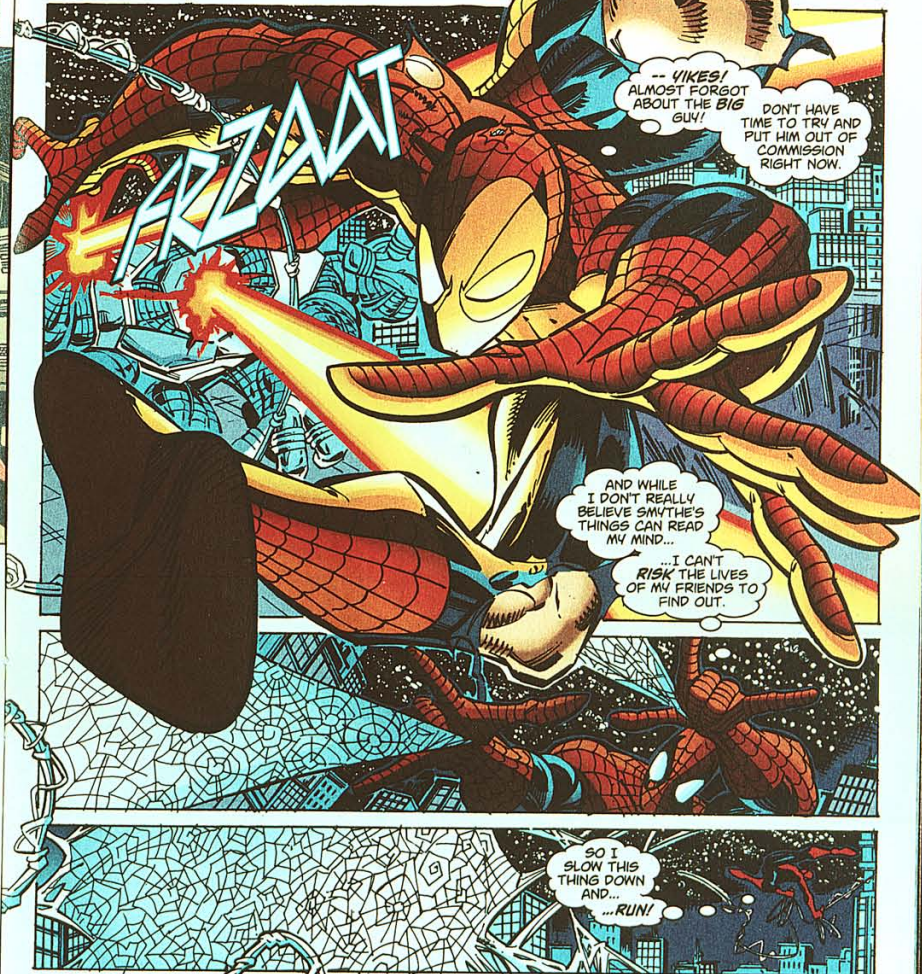
THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN.

I'VE NEVER BELIEVED YOU TO BE THE VILLAIN THAT JONAH HAS.

WELL, THAT'S NICE TO KNOW!

AND I HAVE A LITTLE TIME LEFT BEFORE I CAN GET TO JOHN...

...SO I CAN TAKE CARE OF A FEW PERSONAL STOPS FIRST AND SEE IF THESE MINIATURE SPIDER-SLAVERS CAN REALLY DO WHAT SMYTHE CLAIMS THEY CAN DO --



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THE APARTMENT THAT
PETER PARKER SHARES
WITH RANDY ROBERTSON
DOWNTOWN...

SINCE WHEN
DOES ANYBODY
NEED AN EXCUSE TO
HAVE A PARTY,
LADIES?

JILL!
GLORY! YOU
GUYS HAVE BEEN
HANGING AROUND
WITH MY ROOMIE
FOR TOO
LONG!

AND SINCE
I KNOW I'M
GOING TO LOOSEN
HIM UP...

...I MIGHT
AS WELL INCLUDE
YOU TWO IN ON
THE FRIENDS
AND FAMILY
PLAN!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M GOING ON THIS
WILD GOOSE CHASE. THERE'S NOT A
CHANCE THAT THAT LITTLE SPIDER OF
SMYTH'S COULD HAVE
TAPPED INTO MY
MIND AND --

I THINK
I'LL START
WITH YOU,
GLORY!

DON'T
DO ME ANY
FAVORS, RANDY.
AND BACK
UP!

-- WHOA!

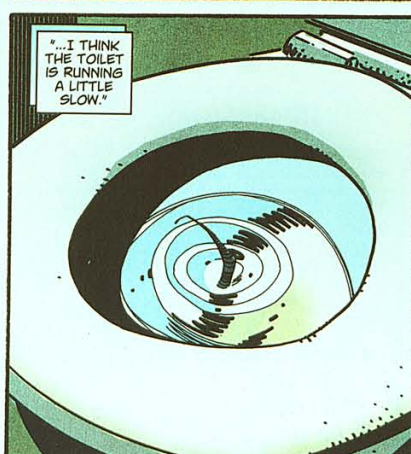
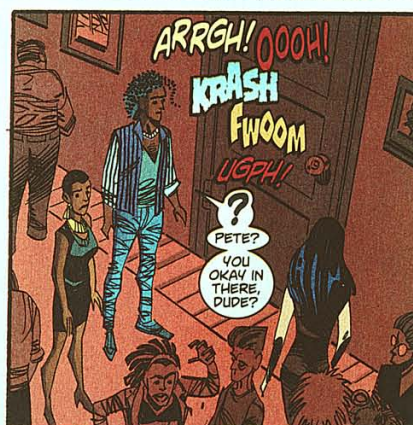
THERE'RE
THREE OF THEM
NOW, HEADING
INTO MY
APARTMENT.

WONDERFUL! FROM
THE LOOKS OF THINGS,
RANDY IS HAVING
ANOTHER ONE OF
HIS PARTIES!

I CAN'T
RISK SHOWING UP
AS SPIDER-MAN
HERE.

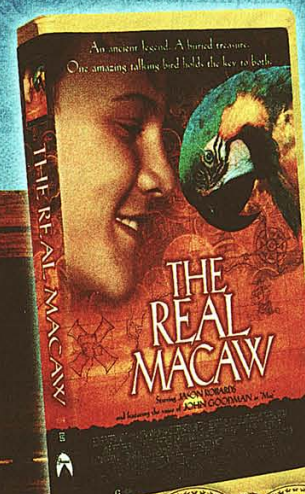
I JUST DON'T
NEED TO DRAW
ANY MORE OF A
DIRECT CONNECTION
BETWEEN PETER PARKER
AND SPIDER-MAN THAN
NECESSARY...
...SO I GUESS
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TO GO INTO ACTION AS
THE DYNAMIC...





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IT'S NOT THE **CLAWS**.
IT'S HOW **YOU** USE THEM.



X-MEN

TRADING CARD GAME

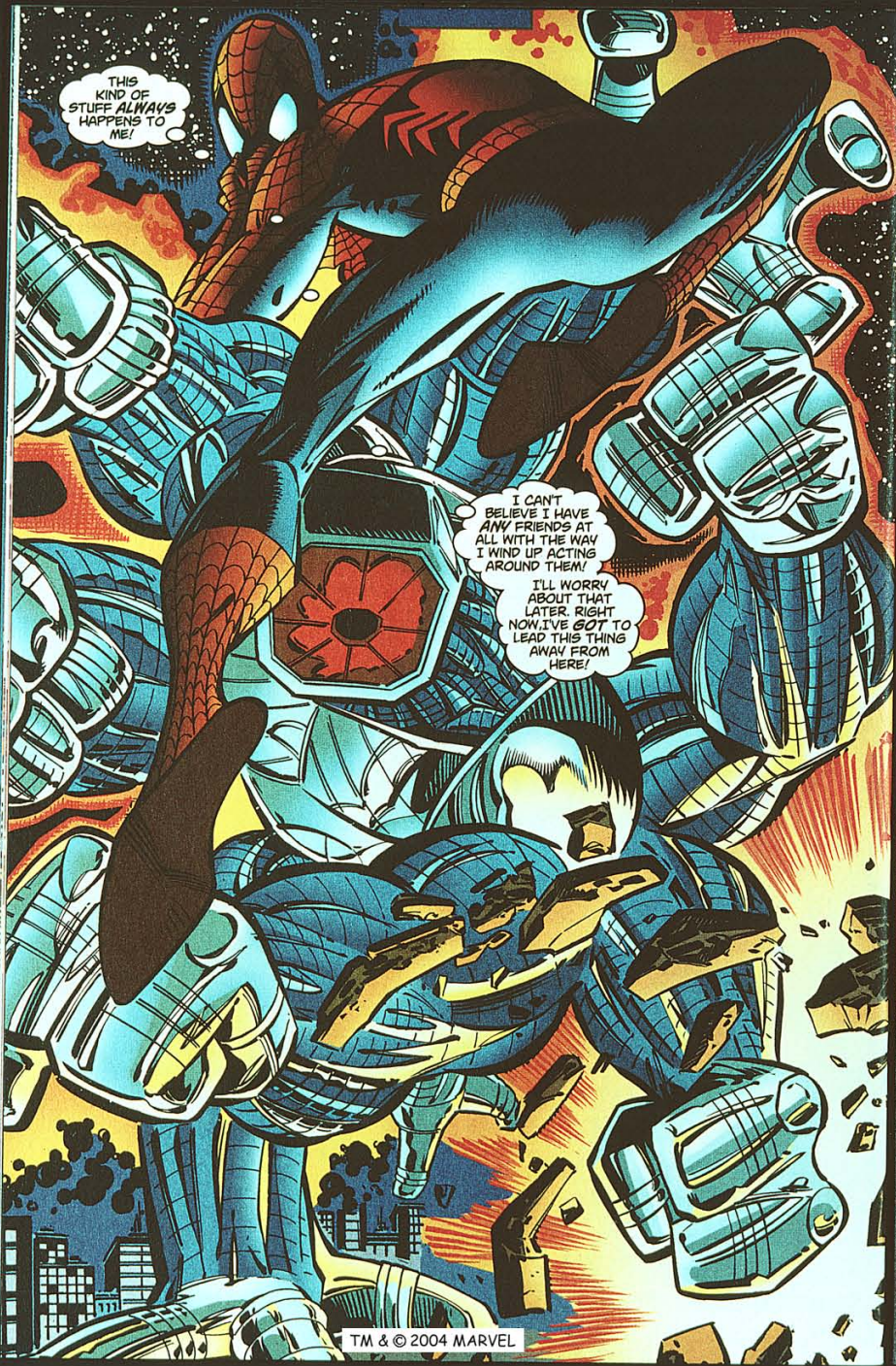
FIRST STRIKE:
STARTER SET- JULY 2000
BOOSTERS- AUGUST 2000



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THIS
KIND OF
STUFF ALWAYS
HAPPENS TO
ME!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE I HAVE
ANY FRIENDS AT
ALL WITH THE WAY
I WIND UP ACTING
AROUND THEM!
I'LL WORRY
ABOUT THAT
LATER. RIGHT
NOW I'VE GOT TO
LEAD THIS THING
AWAY FROM
HERE!



I DO HAVE
TO ADMIT THAT
SMYTHE HAS DONE
SOME IMPROVING ON
THIS YEAR'S SPIDER-
SLAYER MODEL.

AT LEAST
IT DOESN'T HAVE
JONAH'S GRINNING
FACE ON IT ANYWHERE,
LIKE THE FIRST
ONE DID.

THE THING
JUST NEVER
STOPS!

JUST KEEPS
FOLLOWING ME
NO MATTER
WHERE --

-- HMMMM!

MAYBE IT'S
TIME TO MAKE
THAT WORK TO MY
ADVANTAGE!



MAYBE I
SHOULD GO
AFTER PETER
BY MYSELF... SO
HE DOESN'T
FEEL GANGED
UP ON.

YOU? DO
YOU KNOW HOW
LONG PETER AND
I HAVE KNOWN
EACH OTHER?
I'LL GO.

GIRLS!
HELLO!

MAYBE
WHAT PETER
NEEDS IS FOR THE
TWO OF YOU TO START
LAVISHING ATTENTION
ON HIS STUDY
ROOMMATE?

SURE,
RANDY...

...GO SEE
IF YOU CAN
FIND HIM!

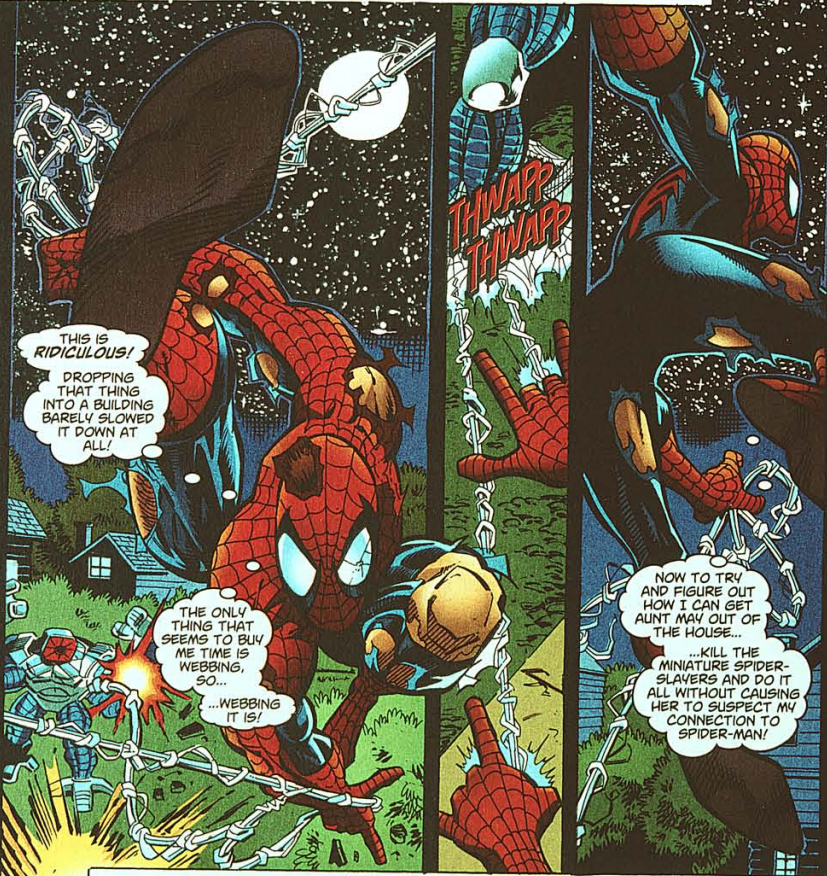


THAT'S A
GOOD SPIDER-
SLAYER!
KEEP COMING!



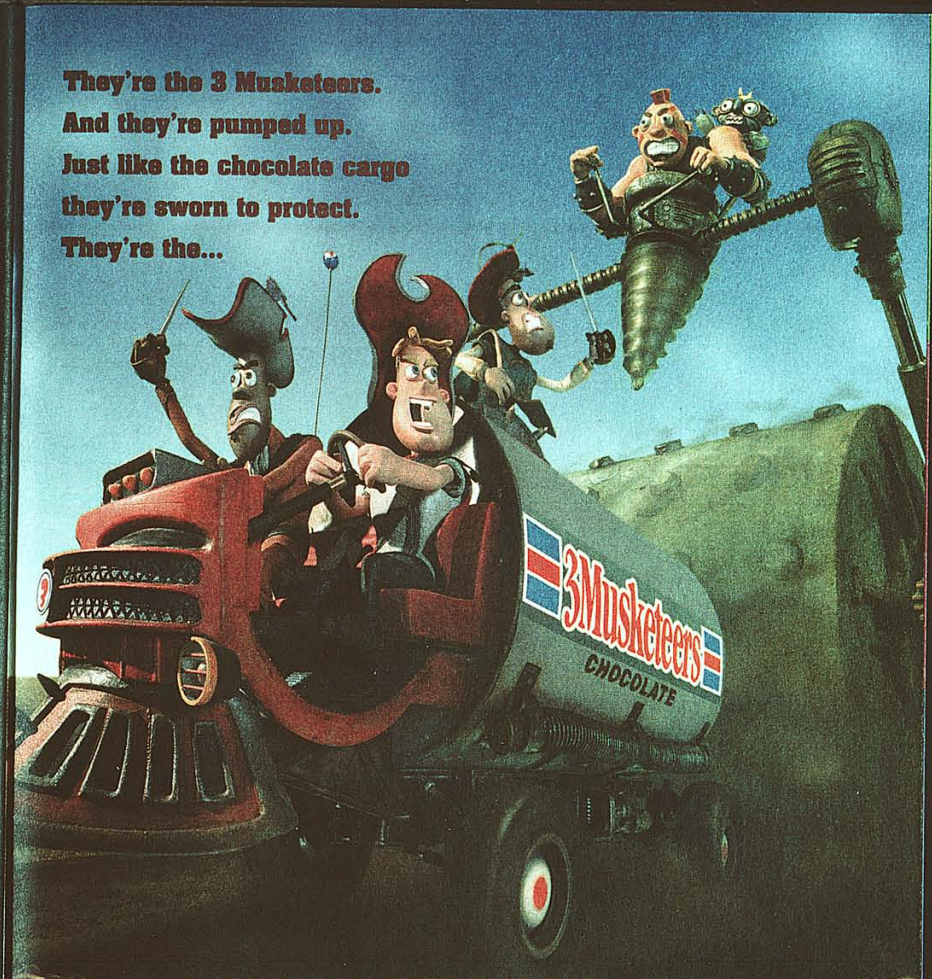
GOT
TO GET TO
AUNT MAY
NOW!

SHE'S THE
ONLY ONE
LEFT THAT I
COULD HAVE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT.



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They're the 3 Musketeers.
And they're pumped up.
Just like the chocolate cargo
they're sworn to protect.
They're the...



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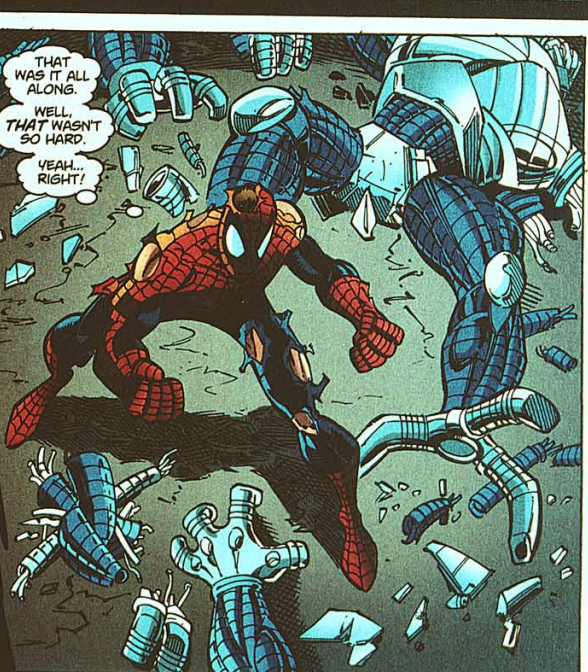


IT'S PUMPED UP™

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THE SPIDER-WEB

LARA CASTLE
ASSISTANT
EDITOR

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

Hey, Spider-folks,

This latest romp was pretty intense! So, the Sandman is falling apart, is he? Well, good for him, he deserves it for being such a loser! But now that the Vault has been closed for some time, where do the cops keep a guy like that?

And for that matter, what makes Electro such a willing agent of Mysterio? Dome-head must be hitting Max Dillon with some crazy dough. It used to be that Electro was only into his own schemes. It's really depressing now that Pete has lost Mary Jane, his job, and everything! But I don't want to see the strip turn into a relentless downer. I don't think I can take it anymore! Maybe Pete needs a change of venue. Maybe he can hop a bus somewhere and start anew. Like Miami, Los Angeles, and Chicago. You think, maybe?

Christopher Currie
Detroit, MI
Hypestyle@yahoo.com

Well, we did try sending Peter off to Portland once, Christopher, but it just didn't take. As for where the cops keep someone like the Sandman in the post-Vault era, we would suggest he be used to shore up the eroding Fire Island beaches, but that's just us.

Dear Spider-people,

I'm confused! These days I'm not sure whether I'm reading Volume I or Volume II of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. Things have been progressing well up until Mary Jane's... disappearance (I'm like Peter; I'm not convinced she's dead). Now our hero is back to "Year One": Peter has nothing but troubles, be it Aunt May's health, money worries, job problems, and of course his love life. It seems the only thing that Spider can do right is defeat villains. It's almost like the days when Stan was writing the book!

I'm not really complaining. "Dust in the Wind" was a great story. I could feel Sandman's torment as well as Peter's. I was glad to see Glory Grant again—I can never get enough of her! And Peter's "mistaken arrest" made me wince. But hey, even the police aren't perfect.

One important lesson to remember about this story: no matter how badly things may go, no matter how tough it gets, no matter how much bad luck you have, whatever has you down, never give up trying to make your life better! Peter's determination should be an inspiration to us all. We know that sooner or later, things will work out, and our hero will be back on track again!

Dennis J. Hamer
Omaha, NE

You're absolutely right, Dennis, the police do make do make mistakes from time to time—like the remix of "Don't Stand So Close to Me." (Insert rimshot here.) But seriously, we're glad you found this issue and it's positive message so inspiring. Peter's undaunted courage and determination in the face of tough odds have inspired generations of comics fans...and now you, too!

Dear Spider Guys,

Wow! I don't think I've ever seen Sandman looking this bad, not even after he and Hydro-Man took a mud bath way back in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217-218. Guess there's going to be a show-

down between of Flint and Venom somewhere along the line. I can't wait.

The appearance of an old standby like Glory Grant is always appreciated.

The scene in the crack house was definitely unexpected and showed that the old Parker luck is still intact. The saying "No good deed goes unpunished," was never more true than here. Who is that going out the window on page 8, panel three? Between the dark hair, nice attire and Pete's reaction to the person, both Jill Stacy and Betty Brant leap to mind. Could Jill be tracking down leads on her father's disappearance or maybe Betty was researching a story on the drug trade? Whatever the case, if it was one of them, I hope she doesn't have a drug problem herself.

During the battle with Mysterio and Electro, Spidey once more showed his heroism by saving Mr. Marko's butt from his two ex-partners. A classic plot device, the hero saving villain A from villain B (and C in this case), done very well here.

The last two panels of the book were very reminiscent of vintage Spidey tales of yore and brought forth a flood of fond memories.

Terence Connors P.M.M.
Rochelle Park, NJ

It's a good thing you enjoyed seeing Glory return to these pages, Terence. Something tells us you'll be seeing a bit more of the ravishing Ms. Grant in the coming months. As for who was sneaking out the window, that remains a mystery. Stay tuned, though, if one thing is for certain, we don't leave plot threads hanging for very long around here!

Dear Spider's Web,

Like I mentioned in a previous letter awhile ago to SPIDER-GIRL, that Normie Osborn kid is always playing with a mangled Spider-Man doll! And AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000 kept the streak going! I'm just curious if the Spider-Man editors always tell the writers to show Normie with a beat-up Spider-Man doll. Whatever the case, it is a neat piece of continuity.

On the whole, the annual was pretty good. I was a little disappointed that Harry Osborn didn't come back, though. I would not mind if he returned. He could have faked his own death and stuff.

The story was good, and so was the art. I felt the person who snapped the Scrier at the end has to be Norman Osborn! I can't wait for his return! Go Norman!

Brendan Walsh
Chicago, IL

That mangled Spider-Man doll has been a visual manifestation of Harry Osborn's hatred for Peter and his Spider-Man identity. It was always meant as an ominous hint that Harry had somehow poisoned the mind of his innocent son Normie against Peter. However, given the events of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000, that may no longer be the case.

Hi guys,

Just wanted to point out an error I found when reading the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2000 Annual yesterday.

During the flashback sequence between Peter and Harry, Peter says that Harry was his best friend in high school, and that later they went to college together.

er. This is wrong. According to my ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN trade paperbacks, Pete and Harry never even met until Pete went off to college at Empire State University.

I know that this is just a small error, but I just wanted to write in and let you guys know. Other than that, I enjoyed the issue.

Graham Garrison
Macon, GA

Thanks for pointing out the unforlivable faux pas, Graham. We'd hoped that this latest example of Ralf's ineptitude would skate by unnoticed. Instead, we were hit with an absolute deluge of mail pointing out this obvious gaffe. As a result, we're forcing Ralf to reread the entire run of the ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN. Come to think of it, that wouldn't be a bad idea for the rest of you out there, either...

Dear Spider's Web,

Don't do it! Don't even think of Peter working as a dishwasher! I am, of course, referring to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17. I mean, I realize I was one of the people who wanted Spider-Man back to what made him a best seller in the '70s, but this is crazy. Much too fast. A couple of issues ago, he was on top of the world, living in a penthouse, married to a supermodel and with a great job. Now? Nothing. You guys ever hear of rage to riches?

Anyway, I really enjoyed this issue. It was classic Peter Parker. We have Peter with a chance to get part of his life back with an important job interview and what does he do? He jeopardizes everything by playing the hero and helping the officers. I wouldn't expect anything less!

Keep the interesting storylines coming and you guys will have a fan for life. Just make sure you keep Ralf out of the loop.

Robert Acquarulo
New Haven, CT

We do try our best, Robert, but Ralf manages to get just enough involved to gum up the works. We will redouble our efforts, however.

We hate to say it, but perhaps you should have been more careful what you wished for. The pendulum has indeed swung back squarely against Peter in recent months, and much more so than many would ever have expected. Makes for compelling reading though, as you yourself freely admit, Robert. Thanks for the feedback.

NEXT ISSUE:

PETER'S A DISHWASHER! NO, NOT REALLY, BUT HE MAY HAVE WISHED HE WAS WHEN HE BECAME EMBROIDERED IN THE MYSTERY OF SENATOR HARK. THAT'S RIGHT, FOLKS, WE'RE ACTUALLY GONNA SOLVE THIS MYSTERY FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL IN A THREE-PART EPIC THAT KICKS OFF HERE NEXT MONTH! NOT ONLY THAT, BUT JOHN POMITA, JR. SLIDES OVER HERE TO BEGIN A NEW ERA OF GREATNESS FOR AMAZING! SO COME ON DOWN AND JOIN JOHN WITH HOWARD MACKIE AND SCOTT HANNA IN TRYING DESPERATELY TO KEEP RALF OUT OF THE LOOP!



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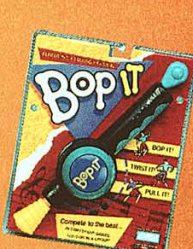
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